

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A file sharing network for sharing files among a plurality of servers comprising:

- a. a search engine comprising a data object description table;
- b. a plurality of servers including a first server defined according to a first server identifier, the first server comprising a first data object defined according to a first data object description; and
- c. a communication link coupling the search engine to the first server, wherein the first server is configured to transmit the first data object description to the search engine during a log-in process of the first server with the search engine, and wherein the search engine is further configured to store the first data object description in the data object description table and configured to correlate the first data object description to the first server identifier within the data object description table during the log-in process.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The file sharing network according to Claim [[20]] 19 further comprising:

- a. a second data object description stored within the data object description table in correlation with a second server identifier, wherein the second server identifier describes a second server and the second data object description describes a second data object; and
- b. a first data object request stored within the search engine, wherein the first data object request was received from the first server, wherein the first data object request is for the second data object.

22. (Previously Presented) The file sharing network according to Claim 21 wherein the search engine is configured to transmit the second server identifier to the first server in response to the first data object request.

23. (Previously Presented) The file sharing network according to Claim 22 wherein the second server is configured to transmit the second data object to the first server upon a valid request by the first server.

24. (Previously Presented) The file sharing network according to Claim 23 wherein the first server is configured to notify the search engine that a download of the second data object is complete.

25. (Previously Presented) The file sharing network according to Claim 23 wherein the second server is configured to notify the search engine that the download of the second data object is complete.

26. (Previously Presented) The file sharing network according to Claim 24 wherein the search engine is configured to correlate the second data object description to the first server identifier within the data object description table when the download of the second data object is complete.

27. (Previously Presented) The file sharing network according to Claim 25 wherein the search engine is configured to correlate, within the data object description table, the second data object description to the first server identifier when the download of the second data object is complete.

28. (Currently Amended) The file sharing network according to Claim [[20]] 19 wherein the first server identifier is selected from a group consisting of a first internet protocol address, a first quantity of simultaneous connections that can be sustained by the first server, a reliability rating of the first server and a server name.

29. (Currently Amended) The file sharing network according to Claim [[20]] 19 wherein the first data object description is selected from a group consisting of a title of the first data

object, a size of the first data object, a type of the first data object, a text associated with the first data object, and a creator of the first data object.

30. (Currently Amended) The file sharing network according to Claim [[20]] 19 wherein the first server is further configured to detect when the first data object is removed from a predetermined file location and to notify the search engine of the removal.

31. (Currently Amended) The file sharing network of Claim [[20]] 19 wherein the search engine is configured to periodically poll the first server to determine if any data objects have been removed from a predetermined file location within the first server.

32. (Previously Presented) The file sharing network according to Claim 30 wherein the search engine is configured to purge the relationship between the first data object description and the first server within the data object description table when the first server notifies the search engine of a removal of the first data object.

33. (Previously Presented) The file sharing network according to Claim 31 wherein the search engine is configured to purge the relationship between the first data object description and the first server within the data object description table when the search engine determines that the first data object has been removed from the predetermined file location within the first server.

34. (Currently Amended) The file sharing network according to Claim [[20]] 19 wherein the search engine is configured to send a periodic ping message between the search engine and the first server, and wherein the first server is configured to respond to the ping message.

35. (Previously Presented) The file sharing network according to Claim 34 wherein the search engine is configured to purge the relationship between the first server identifier and the first data object description within the data object description table when the first server fails to respond to the ping message within a predetermined time.

36. (Currently Amended) The file sharing network according to Claim [[20]] 19 wherein the first server is configured to send a periodic ping message to the search engine following the log-in process.

37. (Previously Presented) The file sharing network according to Claim 36 wherein the search engine is configured to purge the relationship between the first server identifier and the first data object description within the data object description table when the first server fails to send a ping message within a predetermined time.

38. (Currently Amended) The file sharing network according to Claim ~~[[20]]~~ 19 wherein the first server identifier comprises an IP address for accessing the first server over the internet.

39. (Previously Presented) The file sharing network according to Claim 22 wherein the second server identifier defines a server from among a first set of potential server identifiers related to the second data object in the data object description table, wherein the search engine is configured to transmit, in response to the first data object request, the first set of potential server identifiers representing a first set of potential servers capable of transmitting the second data object to the first server, and wherein the first server is configured to select an optimal data source from which to receive the first data object from among a first set of potential servers, wherein a selection of the optimal data source is based upon a comparison of operational parameters respectively associated with each server among the first set of potential servers.

40. (Previously Presented) The file sharing network according to Claim 39 wherein the operational parameters are selected from a group consisting of roundtrip response time between the first server and a potential server, internet connection line speed (bandwidth) of a potential server, a reliability of a potential provider server, a number of requests already queued to a potential server, and a size of a file requested for downloading.

41. (Previously Presented) The file sharing network according to Claim 23 wherein the second server is configured to transmit data files to multiple servers in a time-multiplexed format.

42. (Currently Amended) The file sharing network according to Claim ~~[[20]]~~ 19 wherein the first data object is selected from a group comprising audio data, text data, video data, image data and software executable data.